



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

February 2018

The Municipal EcoLink is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). We respectfully request that the following is electronically distributed or otherwise made available to your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well. You may read past issues at [The Municipal EcoLink](#)

Public Comment on NH Wetlands Rules

NHDES is seeking public comments on a major overhaul of the wetland rules. For more information, please visit the NHDES website:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm>

and attend one of the Public Input Sessions, starting February 26 at NHDES. For a complete list, visit:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/documents/listening-schedule-session.pdf>

Comments may also be submitted electronically to: MaryAnn.Tilton@des.nh.gov. When sending email comments, please be sure to include: 2018 Wetland Rule Comments in the subject line of your email.

Project WET Educator Workshop

NHDES will be conducting a one-day Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop, Friday, March 9, 2018 in Plymouth NH from 8:45 to 4:00 p.m. Workshop is ideal for teachers grades 4 through 6 and environmental educators! Join us to experience Next Generation Science Standard practices in action and how to implement hands-on activities in your classroom. To register visit: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/wet/schedule.htm> For more information, please contact Lara Hooper at lara.hooper@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4071.

Fugitive Dust Workshop

Due to an enthusiastic response, seating is limited but there is still time to register for this workshop. Fugitive dust is a type of air pollutant that affects respiratory health, erodes dirt and gravel roads, pollutes surface waters, and reduces visibility. Managing fugitive dust is also a regulatory requirement. Find out how to control fugitive dust by attending a free workshop on March 15, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the NH Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. This workshop is for public works officials, contractors, landscapers, and erosion and sediment control inspectors. For more information, or to register, visit

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/dust/documents/20180315-fugitive-dust.pdf> or register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/somethings-in-the-air-controlling-fugitive-dust-tickets-41020321887>

Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Loans and Grants Workshop

NHDES is hosting a Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans and grants workshop on April 18, 2018 at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. The morning session will cover infrastructure projects and the afternoon session will cover land conservation projects. For more information, contact Johnna McKenna, Johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-7017.

NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification – In the North Country!

NHDES Solid Waste Operator Basic Training will be offered on April 19 at the Town & Country Inn and Resort in Shelburne. This full day class is for NEW Solid Waste Operators who have yet to be certified and the SW Operator Training Coordinator invites any operator to contact her to see if they are eligible to use this training class as their continuing professional development for annual renewal. In addition, there will be a NEW workshop the evening of April 19 at the same location in Shelburne. For more information on this class and to register, please contact Tara Mae Albert, SWOT Coordinator at Tara.Albert@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3713. For all information regarding the NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program, please go to <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/index.htm>

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund 2018 Grant Round

The NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund is accepting pre-proposals for \$6 million available in nine watersheds throughout the state. Visit the NHDES website

www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/index.htm for application forms and for additional information about the program. Pre-proposals are due April 30, 2018. The pre-applications will be reviewed the month

of May and feedback given to each applicant. Full applications are due August 31, 2018. For more information, please contact Lori Sommer, NHDES Wetland Mitigation Coordinator at lori.sommer@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-4059.

Annual Certification of Criminal Background Checks for Youth Skill Program Staff

New Hampshire Youth Skill Programs are annually required to conduct criminal background checks for any staff (owners, employees, and/or volunteers) that may be alone with any child or children. The requirement applies to all "youth skill camps" ("non-profit or for profit programs teaching a skill to children under 18 years of age") and covers any program designed to impart a specific skill over a period of 3 or more consecutive days. More information and a list of currently certified camps is available online at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youth-skills/index.htm> If you have any questions, please contact Chip Mackey of the NH Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program at (603) 271-0655 or chip.mackey@des.nh.gov.

Reminder: Restrictions on the type of materials that can be burned in Outside Fires

NHDES encourages municipalities to remind homeowners and businesses that there are restrictions on the types of material that can be burned in outside fires. It is unlawful to burn items such as: construction and demolition debris, household trash, tires, furniture, or any kind of painted, treated, or glued wood.

Burning these materials releases toxic air pollutants, creates potentially hazardous ash, and puts your family, neighbors, and the environment at risk. Therefore, these restrictions are effective all year regardless of rain or snow cover. Materials acceptable for burning include: brush less than five inches in diameter originating on-site, clean lumber scraps originating on-site, campfire wood, charcoal and clean wood pallets.

For more information on what materials are acceptable for burning, you can contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at 271-5629, or visit des.nh.gov and click on "Open Burning" under the A to Z topics list.

Asbestos Inspection and Abatement – Notice to Town when issuing a Building Renovation and Demolition Permit

A reminder to all towns and municipalities of the necessity for building owners and their contractors to have an asbestos inspection prior to any renovation/demolition. Please direct them to the NHDES for guidance on their projects. For information on asbestos requirements contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services at 271-1373, or visit des.nh.gov and click on "Asbestos Management" under the A to Z topics list.

FREE – 4th Grade Water Science Fair and NH Drinking Water Festival

Two events in one day - schools may participate in one or both events!

At the **festival**, students will spend the day learning about water quality, conservation, erosion, the effects of pollution, wildlife and many other water-related topics. Activities are hands-on and students interact with professionals in fields of science, technology, engineering and math. These lessons are packed with opportunities to explore Next Generation Science Standards concepts!

For the New Hampshire state-level **water science fair** students conduct research, create an exhibit, write a report and present their findings to a panel of judges. There are a variety of ways the school-level fair can be configured. We have a guide booklet to make this process easy and are happy to discuss with you ways your schools can participate. Participating students with a literary bent may also participate in a **water poetry competition**! The theme this year is "Water in our World" and it is open to all topics (not just science).

The festival, water science fair and water poetry competition are free to registered schools and will take place on May 9th 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Plymouth, NH. Space is limited - first come, first served! For more information or to register, please contact Lara Hooper at (603) 271-4071 or lara.hooper@des.nh.gov.

Household Hazardous Waste Grants Applications

NHDES is now accepting requests for applications for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Grants for State Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). This will be your only opportunity to obtain a grant this coming fiscal year. Costs eligible for reimbursement include contractor HHW disposal costs and an educational campaign addressing source reduction, reuse and recycling of household hazardous waste. Grant requirements give highest priority to applicant communities or groups of communities serving the greatest population, operating a permanent HHW facility, providing access to multiple collection events, or to new applicants.

The deadline for submitting a completed grant application is February 1, 2018. Grant application packages will be available on the NHDES website at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pps/hhwp/categories/forms.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dean Robinson at 271-2047, or by email at dean.robinson@des.nh.gov

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